

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-31 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment adds new Claims 20-31 without introducing any new matter; and cancels Claims 1-19 without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kato (U.S. Patent No. 6,141,111) in view of Nagashima (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,574).

To correct minor formal issues and to clarify certain features in the claims, new Claims 20-31 are added. Claims 1-19 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New Claims 20-31 find non-limiting support in Applicants' disclosure as originally filed, for example at least in Figs. 3 and 5-6, and in the specification starting at p. 14, l. 7. No new matter has been added. For example, the features of dependent Claims 25 and 31 find non-limiting support in Fig. 6, steps S42 and S52, and in the specification at p. 29, ll. 4-7, and p. 30, ll. 16-21.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), in light of the presentation of new Claims 20-31, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection and traverse the rejection, as discussed next.

Briefly recapitulating, Applicants' independent Claim 20 is directed to a data processing device. The device includes, *inter alia*: an operations receiving unit having a display unit arranged to display a list of function select buttons indicating functions to be executed by the data processing device and users, and arranged to receive input operations given by an operator; a control unit connected to the operations receiving unit and arranged to control displaying of the display unit of the operations receiving unit, receive the input

operations from the operations receiving unit, and control a data processing in accordance with the received input operations; a scanner connected to the control unit and arranged to capture image data from a document by scanning the document; a processing unit arranged to perform a data processing of the captured image data in accordance with instructions from the control unit. In addition, the control unit is configured to cause the scanner to scan a document to capture image data from the document when the control unit receives, from the operations receiving unit, input operations given by the operator and including a selected user information, a selected function to be executed, and a processing start request, to cause the processing unit to perform a data processing of the captured image data in accordance with the selected function to be executed included in the input operations, and to cause the data transmission unit to generate an image file, including the captured image data and the selected user information of the input operations as the additional information associated with the captured image data, and transmit the generated image file to the data storage device.

Turning now to the applied references, Kato is directed to a image printing system that includes a image display 24, a digital still camera 11, and an image printer 26 including scanning and printing functions, as well as a control panel 6. (Kato, Abstract, col. 3, ll. 30-41, Fig. 1.). In Kato's system, a data management system for the image printer 26 includes an graphical user interface in the form of an extra-copy designation sheet 100, that can manage a database for further printing on the image printer 26. (Kato, col. 4, ll. 9-13, ll. 56-60, col. 5, ll. 25-30, Fig. 4A.) The extra-copy designation sheet 100 can be displayed on the control panel 6 of the printer 26. (Kato, col. 5, ll. 54-56.) A user can use sheet 100 to select different image that can be printed and associate the images to respective users. (Kato, Fig. 4A, col. 6, ll. 17-26.). Thereafter, Kato explains that the images that are output by printer 26 can be sorted based on the selections on sheet 100. (Kato, col. 6, ll. 34-45.)

However, Kato fails to teach all the features of Applicants' independent Claim 20. In particular, the cited passages of Kato fail to teach:

a control unit ... configured to cause the scanner to scan a document to capture image data from the document when the control unit receives, from the operations receiving unit, input operations given by the operator and including a selected user information, a selected function to be executed, and a processing start request, ***to cause the processing unit to perform a data processing of the captured image data in accordance with the selected function to be executed included in the input operations.***

(Claim 20, portions omitted, emphasis added.) As discussed above, Kato's sheet 100 that is displayed on the panel 6 of the printer 26 allows to select users and link them to a certain number of copies of a designated image A-F, but fails to teach that a control unit can cause the processing unit to perform a data processing of the captured image data in accordance with the selected function to be executed included in the input operations, as required by independent Claim 20. In Kato, no data processing is chosen on the sheet 100 that could be applied to the captured data.

The reference Nagashima, used by the pending Office Action to form the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection, fails to remedy the deficiencies of Kato, even if we would assume that the combination is proper.

Nagashima is directed to a multifunctional apparatus that can be used by a plurality of users, where image data can be entered from various sources such as scanners, computers, facsimile, etc. (Nagashima, Abstract.) The image data can be manually associated with an user ID by displaying a list of image data and items that correspond to user IDs. (Nagashima, col. 5, ll. 38-47, Fig. 4.) Nagashima explains that a touch-sensitive control panel 56 can be used for this purpose. (Nagashima, col. 5, ll. 5-10.) However, Nagashima fails to remedy the deficiencies of Kato. In particular, Nagashima at least fails to teach a control unit to cause the processing unit to perform a data processing of the captured image data in accordance

with the selected function to be executed included in the input operations, as required by Applicants' Claim 20.

Therefore, even if the combination of Kato and Nagashima is assumed to be proper, the cited passages of the combination fails to teach every element of Applicants' Claim 20. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse, and request reconsideration of this rejection based on these references.

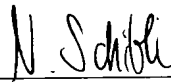
Independent Claim 26 recite features that are analogous to the features recited in independent Claim 20, but directed to a method. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 20, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claim 26, and the rejections of all associated dependent claims, are also believed to be overcome in view of the arguments regarding independent Claim 20.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 20-31 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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